Appendix.

[Vide item III—Papers laid on the table of the House, at page 595 supra.]

Revenue Department.

Communication to the Council.

With reference to the Legislative Council Question No. 504 answered on 29th January 1934, the following information on the subject of transfer of the control and management of cattle-pounds to local bodies is laid on the table :—

Cattle-pounds are regulated by the provisions of the Cattle Trespass Act, 1871, an All-India Act. Under section 6 (proviso) of that Act, the heads of villages in this Presidency are ex officio keepers of village pounds, and though under section 31 (*a*) the Local Government may transfer to any local authority all or any of the functions of itself or of the District Magistrate, the Government have found it not possible to exercise that power for the following reasons :—

(1) Unless section 6 of the Cattle Tresspass Act is amended the transfer would place the village headmen under the orders of local bodies in this respect ; and even if the Act were amended few local bodies would be in a position to employ other paid agency for work connected with cattle-pounds.

(2) Of about 8,800 pounds in the Presidency only a small number are run at a profit, and the Government cannot hand over the profitable pounds to panchayats while retaining the burden of the unprofitable pounds themselves. It is doubtful whether local bodies would be willing, or could afford to take over the management of all cattle-pounds in the Presidency.

(3) Under the Madras Local Boards Act as it stands, only a panchayat can be given control of cattle-pounds (the powers of a panchayat where there are no panchayats being exercised by taluk boards). There are no panchayats in many places where there are pounds and it would be inconvenient to hand over some pounds to panchayat boards and to retain the rest under the District Magistrate.

2. The question was again examined recently in connexion with retrenchment of land revenue establishment. It was found that the proposal to transfer cattle-pounds to local bodies is not likely to prove an economy. Having regard to this and the difficulties set forth in paragraph 1 above, the Government have dropped the question of transferring control of cattle-pounds to local bodies.

J. A. Thorne—12-3-34.